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ACTION EA 15

INFO OCT 01, CIAE 00, DODE 00, JPM 04, H 02, INR 07, L 03, NSAE 00, NSC 10,
P 03, RSC 01, PRS 01, SS 20, USIA 12, IO 13, UPW 01, AID 28, RSR 01,
/122 W

EXCISE

R 071140Z OCT 69
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1837
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
CINCPAC
AMCONSUL DANANG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

024870

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Joan Isenberg DATE 1/26/82
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

S E C R E T SAIGON 20190

NOFORN

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

PARIS FOR VN MISSION

SUBJ: 1970 SENATORIAL ELECTION

REF: A. [redacted]
B. [redacted]

1. IN AN OCTOBER 6 CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF, [redacted] SEEMED STARTLED WHEN EMBOFF NOTED THAT SHE HAD HEARD THAT SOME SENATORS MIGHT LIKE TO SEE PRESIDENT THIEU POSTPONE THE 1970 SENATORIAL ELECTION, THUS POSSIBLY LENDING CREDENCE TO REPORTS WE HAVE HAD THAT PRESIDENT THIEU MAY BE CONSIDERING SUCH A MOVE (REFS). ACKNOWLEDGED THAT SOME SENATORS WOULD LIKE TO SEE A POSTPONEMENT, BUT STATED EMPHATICALLY THAT HE IS TOTALLY OPPOSED TO THE IDEA. HE INSISTED THAT THE CONSTITUTION MUST BE CARRIED OUT TO THE LETTER WITH REGARD TO THE SENATORIAL ELECTION.

b-1 ec ed

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2. WHEN ASKED WHETHER A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT WOULD BE REQUIRED TO POSTPONE THE ELECTION, [redacted] REPLIED IN THE NEGATIVE. HE STATED THAT UNDER ARTICLE 65 OF THE CONSTITUTION THE PRESIDENT COULD (EMPHASIZED "COULD") POSTPONE AN ELECTION WITH THE CONSENT OF TWO-THIRDS OF THE TOTAL MEMBERSHIP OF BOTH HOUSES OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. [redacted] SEEMED CONFIDENT THAT THE REQUIRED VOTE COULD NOT RPT NOT BE OBTAINED. b-1 ed

3. EMBOFF TOOK OCCASION TO EXPRESS STRONG OPPOSITION TO POSTPONEMENT OF THE ELECTION, CITING THE BAD EFFECT SUCH A MOVE WOULD HAVE ON VIETNAMESE, US, AND WORLD OPINION. [redacted] CONCURRED COMPLETELY IN THIS VIEW AND SAID THAT IF APPROACHED BY PRESIDENT THIEU FOR HIS OPINION ON THE SUBJECT HE WOULD CLEARLY EXPRESS HIS OPPOSITION TO THE IDEA TO THE PRESIDENT.
BERGER
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